United Nations E/2017/NGO/3

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
2 June 2017
English
Original: French

2017 session
28 July 2016-27 July 2017
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by Centre européen de recherche et de prospective politique, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Statement

Although it represents a serious challenge for the international community, the eradication of poverty is one of the Sustainable Development Goals. It requires specific responses that are immediately applicable to particular situations. Several levels of participation and decision-making come into play as the challenge of globalization pushes people towards a renewed focus on community that sometimes causes fractures to emerge instead of maximizing similarities.

The various preparatory meetings for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), as well as the Conference itself held in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016, at which my organization participated as a stakeholder, were an opportune occasion for cross-cutting discussions on how to reduce social inequalities and push back poverty to the greatest possible extent. For example, the Centre européen de recherche et de prospective politique (CEREPPOL) works on the Indian subcontinent to try to address the silent causes of poverty by providing education about democracy and raising awareness of individuality as a source of social mobility and access to medium- and long-term well-being. Our methods of governance are established with the goal of providing sustainable support, in order to ensure that beneficiary populations are always the agents of their own change. Our organization takes concrete action in Europe and on the African continent so as to advance access to decent housing, which is a determining factor in escaping the cycle of "identity" poverty. In the same vein, we believe that housing is an inalienable right. It should promote access to an improved standard of living, sustainable consumption and equitable conditions for development. For those reasons, we have established a private programme in support of populations seeking recognition. Through such tailor-made programmes, the concerned populations develop a practical vision of how to escape poverty. That involves restoring to them, on a daily basis, their tools for reflection and action so that they are able to regain their autonomy and thus become the agents or authors of their own social, economic and psychological recovery.

Given that our development programmes were launched only recently (19 months ago), our qualitative and quantitative evaluation criteria give us actionable data covering just that period. Official data currently show that our front office advice and support programmes have enabled people to make progress towards greater independence. They have been able to improve their autonomy in daily life, which is one of the intended goals. It is expected that the results will be reviewed in 48 months' time, after the initial programmes have been completed.

We remain confident and at the disposal of the international community to share in a "community of practice" with the aim of substantially reducing poverty.